REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted.

Further, the claims are amended without prejudice to no longer recite any multiple dependencies. The subject matter of the canceled multiple dependencies is also set forth in new dependent claims 18-20.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:SNS\la I:\atty\SNS\292411us-pr.doc Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar Registration No. 34,423